



Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

What's New / What's Cool in 2012

Major Plans

- Historic Structure Reports and Cultural Landscape Reports have been completed to guide preservation treatments of light stations on Devils, Long, Michigan, Outer and Sand Islands over the next 5-15 years. These documents, which are full of interesting historical data, maps, and photographs, will be posted on the park website in summer 2012.

Major Projects Scheduled for 2012

Light Stations

- The contract for major lighthouse preservation efforts for Michigan, Devils, Outer, Sand, and Long islands will be let in July. Work may begin late summer 2012 or in spring 2013, and is expected to take two seasons. The proposed work includes extensive interior and exterior repairs, and re-opening of the historic clearings around several of the lights. More details on this project are available at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/APIS>.
- Long Island light station – removal of vegetation near the building to increase air circulation and mold/moisture mitigation at the Keeper's Quarters Triplex will continue in 2012.
- Michigan Island Light Station – installation of new handicapped accessible vault toilet.

Dock and Marina Work

- Little Sand Bay Marina – the underground fuel storage tanks have been replaced with above ground storage tanks.
- South Twin and Basswood – these docks were replaced and improved in 2011. They are available for visitor use.
- Otter Island – repairs of winter storm damage will be completed this summer.

Other Cultural Resources

- Hansen Farm, Sand Island – the historic Boar's Nest and Twine Shed have been safely moved back from the eroded bank. A non-historic boathouse was removed, the first step in restoring the bank. Clearing of vegetation from around the farm buildings will continue in 2012.
- Hokenson Fishery, Little Sand Bay – continuation of preservation work on the fishing vessel, the Twilite.

Campsites

- A new group campsite has been established on Sand Island and previous group campsite B has been converted into an individual campsite.
- A new individual site has been established on Long Island, as well as a privy.
- Ironwood Island campsite has been relocated to a better location on the east side of the island, and the previous campsite area restored. A privy has been installed at the campsite.

Other Infrastructure Projects

- Vault toilet replacement: Raspberry (sandspit) and Devils campsite.
- Installation of new kayak safety kiosk at Little Sand Bay.

Sustainability and Climate Change

- A new exhibit that describes the impacts of climate change on the Ojibwe culture was installed at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in September. This "Changing Climate...Changing Cultures" exhibit, funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Forest Service, the University of Wisconsin-Extension, the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Commission, the Wisconsin Historical Society, and NPS.
- The park received a *Parks Climate Challenge* grant from the National Park Foundation that will fund a four-day teacher workshop at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center July 16-19 to train teachers in using a curriculum based on the "Changing Climate...Changing Cultures" exhibit. Teachers will be encouraged to develop service learning projects for their classes related to impacts of climate change, particularly relating to the Apostle Islands region.
- The park will receive funding for a George Melendez Wright Climate Change Internship this summer.
- A new exhibit focusing on the impacts of climate change in the Apostle Islands will be installed in the Stockton Island Visitor Center this summer.
- Continuing efforts to increase sustainability in the park are being made, including replacing lighting in all island housing and half of mainland housing with fluorescent bulbs. The LED lights are lower in wattage, need to be replaced less frequently, and eliminate the need to dispose of mercury containing light bulbs. The park is also working toward converting propane water heaters with solar water heaters and the use of propane powered push mowers and weed eaters.



Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

What's New / What's Cool in 2012

Wildlife and Natural Resources

- Park staff and partners, with the help of GLRI funding, continue to aggressively reduce deer numbers on Sand and York Islands to protect Canada yew, implementing the park's Harvestable Wildlife Management Plan. The park protects some of the last areas where Canada yew can be seen on a landscape scale. Venison is donated to the Red Cliff tribe. A GLRI funded wildlife technician is monitoring the effectiveness of management actions.
- University of Wisconsin researchers are developing a technique to estimate deer populations on the islands.
- The Great Lakes I&M Network of the NPS will be conducting eagle surveys, monitoring water quality, and beginning to work on amphibian monitoring in the park.
- Park staff and volunteers are working to restore the Ironwood Island sandspit and improve camping. The campsite has been moved to the east side of the sandspit, a floating boardwalk installed, and thousands of native plants used to restore bare areas. The GLRI provided funding for this project and Northland College students greatly assisted with the planting effort.
- A rare plant survey will be conducted this summer, looking at potential impacts of climate change, and comparing results with a comprehensive survey done in the early 1990's. Juniper on some of the park sandscapes have been dying back. A Northland College study will be trying to determine the cause.
- The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is providing funding for an Invasive Species Interpreter to help communicate the threat of invasive species and a biological technician to inventory and control invasive species. A series of different media has been developed to help communicate the threat that invasive species present to the Great Lakes ecosystems, including posters, banner stands, and portable exhibits.

Partnership Activities

- *Island School*, an environmental education program for regional 5th and 6th graders, hosted over 80 students from Bayfield and Westfield Schools in 2012. Friends of the Apostle Islands provided a transportation grant that made it possible for many of these students to attend Island School.
- The park was funded by the National Park Foundation to participate in a Park Stewards partnership with the Bayfield School for a second year. Teacher Rick Erickson will continue to develop a series of service learning projects for Bayfield students directly relating to the Apostle Islands. In 2012, students helped with setting up and cleaning out the garden at Raspberry Island Light, building boardwalk on the Lakeshore Trail, and constructing a shelter for the fee station at Meyers Beach. The program will also include implementing a "physics of lighthouses" curriculum and original research. Boardwalk materials were provided by a grant from the National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation (<http://www.nplsf.org>).
- The US Coast Guard Auxiliary will provide volunteers to contact paddlers at Meyers Beach and at Little Sand Bay to discuss equipment and procedures to facilitate safe paddling in the park.
- Piping plover monitors will once again be stationed out at Long Island to monitor and protect piping plovers, as well as provide information to visitors. The monitors will be NPS employees, funded through the Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program. This project is only possible through a partnership with the Wisconsin DNR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bad River Tribe, The Nature Conservancy, and the Johnson Foundation.
- The real-time wave observation system off the sea caves near Meyers Beach, developed by the University of Wisconsin and UW Sea Grant, will be deployed again this summer. This project will enhance visitor safety by providing current information on wave conditions at the sea caves. A related project will observe and model the water environment at the Apostle Islands. Friends of the Apostle Islands has been an important supporter and contributor to this project.
- The Friends and the NPS will be partnering to restore the historic Raspberry Island Boathouse, the structure that greets visitors as they arrive at the park's showcase light station. Friends are getting closer to raising their share of the project (\$52,000). NPS expects to have funding for our portion (\$155,000) and initiate work on the foundation in 2013.
- Mark Weller's spectacular photos of the Milky Way over the Outer, Raspberry and Sand Island lighthouses have been a fundraising success for the Friends. Raspberry Island light station was photographed in 2011 and Devils Island lighthouse will be photographed in 2012. For more information on the photos, membership, or other opportunities to contribute, go to <http://www.friendsoftheapostleislands.org/>.

